

# USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

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## FOR IMMEDIATE Release

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### **Nelson Appointed to Investment Board**

**BISMARCK**, October 15, 2002- -State Representative Jon Nelson, of Wolford, was recently appointed to the Rural Economic Area Partnership's (REAP) Investment Board (RIP) by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson.

As a member of the REAP Investment Board, Representative Nelson will help make decisions on projects receiving monies from REAP funding. The USDA Rural Development State Director has the authority to appoint one member to the board.

"I appointed Jon because he has a good understanding of rural America and the challenges there, has good judgment and has developed relationships that can benefit the REAP Zone mission and ultimately the citizens living within."

North Dakota's two REAP Zones, CONAC and Southwest, were created in 1995 as a congressional pilot project to stem out-migration and to stimulate economic growth in 14 designated counties throughout North Dakota. The CONAC REAP Zone includes Bottineau, McHenry Pierce, Benson, Rolette and Towner Counties, and the Southwest REAP Zone includes Dunn, Golden Valley, Billings, Stark, Slope, Hettinger, Bowman and Adams Counties.

The REAP Investment Board is the fiscal agent for the two REAP Zones. The board is made up of four members from each Zone and one USDA appointed member. The board, also created in 1995, has the responsibility to acquire and distribute grant and loan funds to each of the REAP Zones.

Nelson replaces Terry Zeltinger of Burlington.

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